

I. Executive Summary

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and subsequent events both locally and nationally, the Commonwealth of Virginia has worked stringently to make all-hazards preparedness a top priority. In 2002, Governor Warner established the Secure Virginia Initiative, subsequently renamed the Secure Commonwealth Initiative. As outlined in Executive Order 07, this Initiative states:

The Secure Commonwealth Initiative is charged with ensuring a safe, secure and prepared Virginia by developing and overseeing a coordinated prevention, preparedness, and recovery strategy for natural and man-made disasters and emergencies, including terrorist attacks, that encompasses Federal, State, local, and private entities and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Virginia is continually building upon the foundation established by this Executive Order, devoting as many resources as possible to the development of capabilities that will sustain a robust and forward-thinking all-hazards preparedness program. The following State Preparedness Report provides not only an overview of Virginia's accomplishments to date, it also encompasses the vision and goals set forth by the Commonwealth and the National Priorities. The accomplishments, capabilities, targets, initiatives, and resources herein reflect Virginia's specific needs while fully aligning with ongoing Federal government standards.

The findings and information presented within this report draw from a wide variety of sources, including the *2007 Annual Report on the Virginia Strategic Plan for Statewide Communications Interoperability*, the *Virginia NIMS Cast*, and the *Virginia Enhancement Plan* (as amended in March 2007). Firsthand information was also gathered from key leaders representing each of the discussed priorities. To ensure the capabilities, accomplishments, and targets for each locality were depicted thoroughly and accurately, a series of workshops were held in each of the seven homeland security regions across the Commonwealth. These one-day workshops provided a forum for open discussion and allowed each locality to present its preparedness information directly to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Each component of this report supports the long term vision for Virginia's security, with a particular focus on

- Implementation of NIMS
- Expanded regional collaboration
- Implementation of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- Strengthening of information sharing and collaboration
- Strengthening of interoperable and operable communications capabilities
- Strengthening of CBRNE detection, response and decontamination capabilities
- Strengthening of medical surge and mass prophylaxis capabilities
- Strengthen planning and citizen preparedness capabilities

With continued focus and commitment to an all-hazards approach strategy, the Commonwealth has been able to better coordinate and optimize emergency management operations between state

agencies, localities, not-for-profit organizations, private industries, and the citizenry. The interrelated plans and systems discussed below are the foundation upon which Virginia is continuing to build a comprehensive program for protecting the lives and property of its citizenry. The Commonwealth is extremely aware of this tremendous responsibility and is striving to achieve the highest levels of preparedness and responsiveness possible for all emergency and disaster situations.

Overview

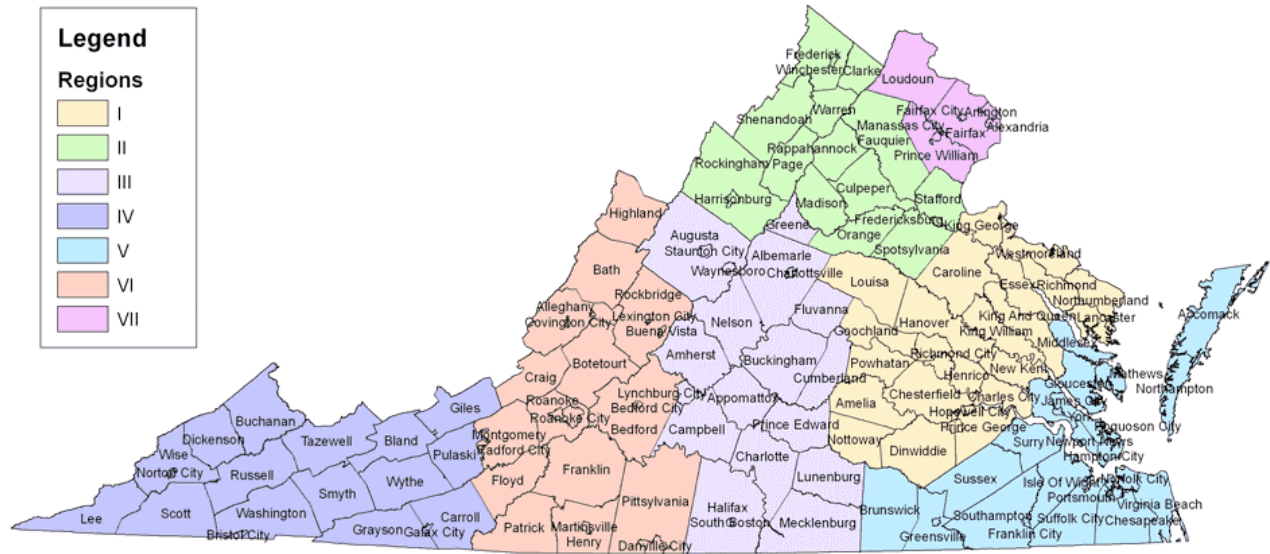
State Background

Commonwealth of Virginia Profile:

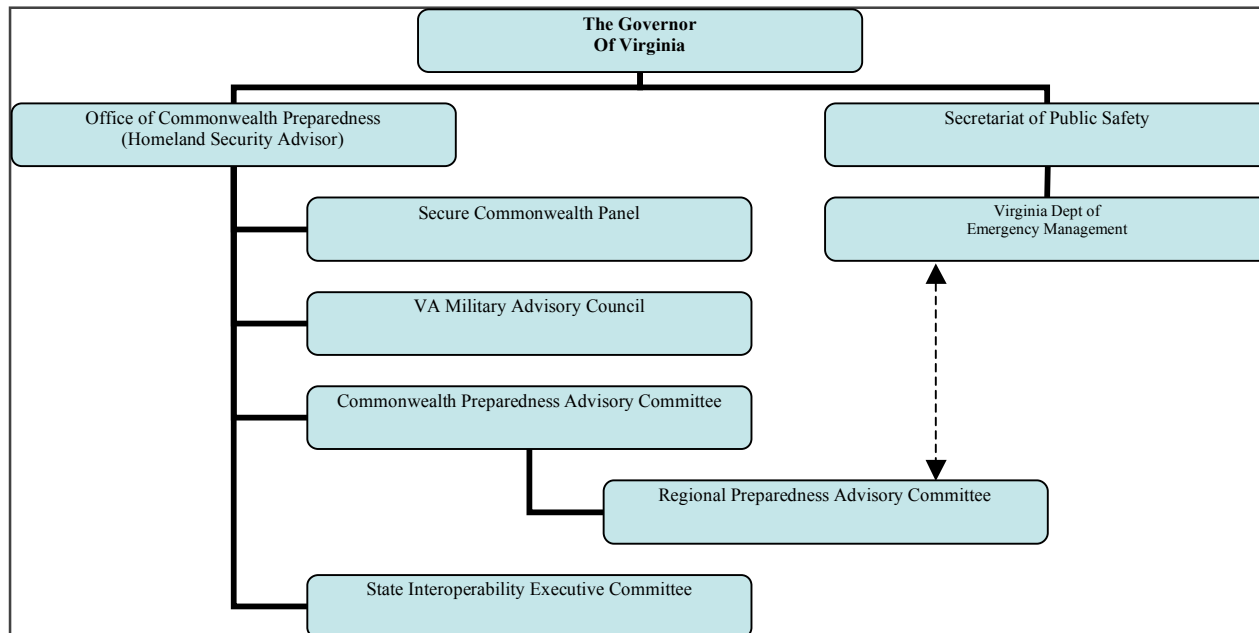
Characteristic	Description
Virginia Population (source: 2006 Census)	7,642,884
UASI Population (Tier I)	National Capital Region: 1,987,884 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arlington County ○ Fairfax County ○ Loudoun County ○ Prince William County ○ City of Alexandria ○ City of Fairfax
UASI Population (Tier II)	Hampton Roads 1,565,306 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City of Norfolk ○ City of Virginia Beach ○ City of Newport News ○ City of Hampton ○ City of Chesapeake ○ City of Portsmouth ○ Southampton County ○ Isle of Wight County (City of Franklin) ○ Surry County ○ James City County (City of Williamsburg) ○ Gloucester County ○ York County ○ Suffolk County Richmond MSA (new UASI 2008) 1,181,097 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amelia County ○ Caroline County ○ Charles City County ○ Chesterfield County ○ Cumberland County ○ Dinwiddie County ○ Goochland County ○ Hanover County ○ Henrico County ○ King and Queen County ○ Louisa County ○ New Kent County

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Powhatan County ○ Prince George County ○ Sussex County ○ City of Colonial Heights ○ City of Hopewell ○ City of Petersburg ○ City of Richmond
Location of State	Virginia is a Mid-Atlantic state bordered by Maryland on the North, West Virginia on the North/North West, Kentucky and Tennessee on the far west and North Carolina to the South. The District of Columbia is also contingent to the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Centers of Population	The highest density population of Virginia is shaped in a crescent. Beginning at the top of the crescent in Northern Virginia, continuing down the I-95 South corridor to Richmond and then east along I-64 to Virginia Beach. The three Virginia UASIs comprise 32% of the population of the Commonwealth yet only 24% of the total land area.
Industries	Service Sector – including computer and data processing Agricultural Coal production (10 th in the nation) 29 Fortune 500 companies (10 th in the nation) Military bases (largest concentration in US) Computer Chips/Communications/Internet Providers
Transportation	Airports – Five major airports Roads – 68,429 miles roads (3 rd largest highway system in US) including I-95 and the Capital Area Beltway Tunnels/Bridges – Three tunnel/bridge systems including the 23 mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Train – Amtrak and Virginia Rail Express Ferries
Key Ports	3 large ports – including the Hampton Roads port which is the 3 rd largest port on the east coast
Common Hazards	Terrorism Hurricanes Floods/Ice Storms
Regional Structure	Virginia is broken into seven Homeland Security regions. The National Capital Region localities comprise Region VII, the Hampton Roads UASI comprise most of Region V and the Richmond Area UASI comprise most of Region I.

Virginia Homeland Security Planning Regions



Governance



The **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)** is the agency responsible for coordination of the Commonwealth's emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities. In the context of these activities, VDEM assumes the primary and pivotal role in planning, training, exercising, and integrating the various statewide entities and their emergency management strategies and activities. Through a cadre of funding initiatives, mutual aid agreements, training and exercise programs, performance reviews, capability assessments, risk assessments and target identification, VDEM works to coordinate and integrate planning and response activities of all invested parties within Virginia.

The Local Support Services Division (LSS) of VDEM has seven **regional coordinators** that work with local officials and emergency management coordinators to assist and support localities in their all-hazard planning and response efforts. It is the responsibility of the LSS regional coordinators to begin guiding the localities toward a regionalized approach to emergency management. The seven homeland security regions delineated by VDEM were designed to correspond with the regions established by the Virginia State Police (VSP). Each of the VDEM LSS regional coordinators work with the satellite offices of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in planning, training, exercises, and response to emergency situations and to support local emergency management activities.

At the state level, the **Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP)** coordinates all agencies involved in the State's homeland security efforts (including prevention, vulnerability reduction, response, and recovery). This office reports to the Governor and works with Federal, State, and local officials, as well as the private sector, to develop well-coordinated all-hazards preparedness strategies and plans. Members of OCP help facilitate communications between the Governor, local governments, and first responders regarding issues of emergency prevention, preparedness,

response, and recovery. In particular, the OCP focuses on continuity of operations planning, interoperability, National Capital Region (NCR) coordination and initiatives, critical infrastructure protection, grants coordination, and the Virginia Higher Education Preparedness Consortium.

The OCP also serves as a liaison between the Governor and DHS and provides oversight, coordination, and review of all disaster, emergency management, and terrorism management plans for the Commonwealth and its agencies. The OCP represents the Governor for all regional efforts to develop a coordinated security and preparedness strategy, including representation within the NCR security group (which is part of the Urban Areas Security Initiative). In addition to the above responsibilities, the OCP convenes the Secure Commonwealth Panel, established by Governor Mark Warner in Executive Order #69 on May 3, 2004. For more information on the OCP, visit <http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/Initiatives/index.cfm>.

The **Secure Commonwealth Panel (SCP)** is an advisory board within the executive branch of Virginia's government, reporting directly to the OCP. The 29-member Panel is charged with monitoring and assessing implementation of statewide deterrence, prevention, response, and recovery initiatives, as well as for reviewing, evaluating and making recommendations pertaining to the security and emergency preparedness of government at all levels in Virginia. The Panel is also responsible for facilitating cabinet-level security and emergency preparedness coordination among multiple State agencies and the private sector. Additionally, the Panel prepares a comprehensive strategic plan outlining the status of ongoing statewide efforts to manage physical, economic, and societal risks and recommends strategies for future activities.

The SCP meets monthly and is divided into nine sub-panels covering all areas of activities in the State (Agribusiness, Citizens and Community, First Responders, Government Operations and Funding, Health and Medical, Industry and Commerce, Technology, Transportation, and Utilities). The panel makes real-time recommendations to the Governor to improve the Commonwealth's security and preparedness and assists with legislation and implementation of approved recommendations.

The **Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group (CPWG)** is an operations team of State agencies that meets regularly to assess the State's preparedness and capabilities. These partners coordinate, develop, and implement policies for funding and operations relating to all-hazards preparedness. The CPWG serves as the interagency State level coordination mechanism for Virginia's applications for preparedness-related grants that flow to and through the State. Working Group representatives are members of the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, Virginia State Police, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Fire Programs, Department of Transportation, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Capitol Police, and Commerce and Trade. This group serves the Secure Commonwealth Initiative by meeting regularly and developing recommendations for the Secure Commonwealth Panel and the Governor. It is also through the CPWG that VDEM serves as the Commonwealth's designated State Administrative Agency (SAA).

Under the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group, there are seven **Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees (RPACs)**. These Committees are located throughout the Commonwealth based on homeland security regions I-VII. The Committees meet regularly and focus on regional initiatives in training, equipment, communication, and strategy to ensure access to response teams during emergencies and to facilitate testing, training, and exercises for mass casualty preparedness. Membership for each RPAC includes representatives from emergency management, fire, law enforcement, local government, the private sector and institutions of higher learning. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management LSS regional coordinators are active participants in these meetings.

The **Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC)** was established to maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship between the Commonwealth and the leadership of the Armed Forces of the United States. VMAC's mission extends to the military commanders stationed in the Commonwealth, where they work together to encourage regular communication on continued military facility viability, the exploration of privatization opportunities, and the resolution of issues affecting preparedness, public safety and security.

The **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)**, which has been operating since 2004, serves as the steering group for the CIC (discussed below) and makes recommendations for the distribution of federal grants funds to localities for voice and data communication projects. The SIEC consists of 13 representatives from regional, local and State public safety associations and government. This group includes the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia Sheriffs' Association, Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators, and Virginia Association of Public Safety Communication Officials. The SIEC, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator, updates and finalizes the Virginia Strategic Plan for Statewide Interoperable Communications on an annual basis. The SIEC was established by Governor's Executive Order 30 (which expired on July 20, 2007 but extended through Executive Directive) and has been introduced to the 2008 Virginia General Assembly for codification.

Stakeholder Input

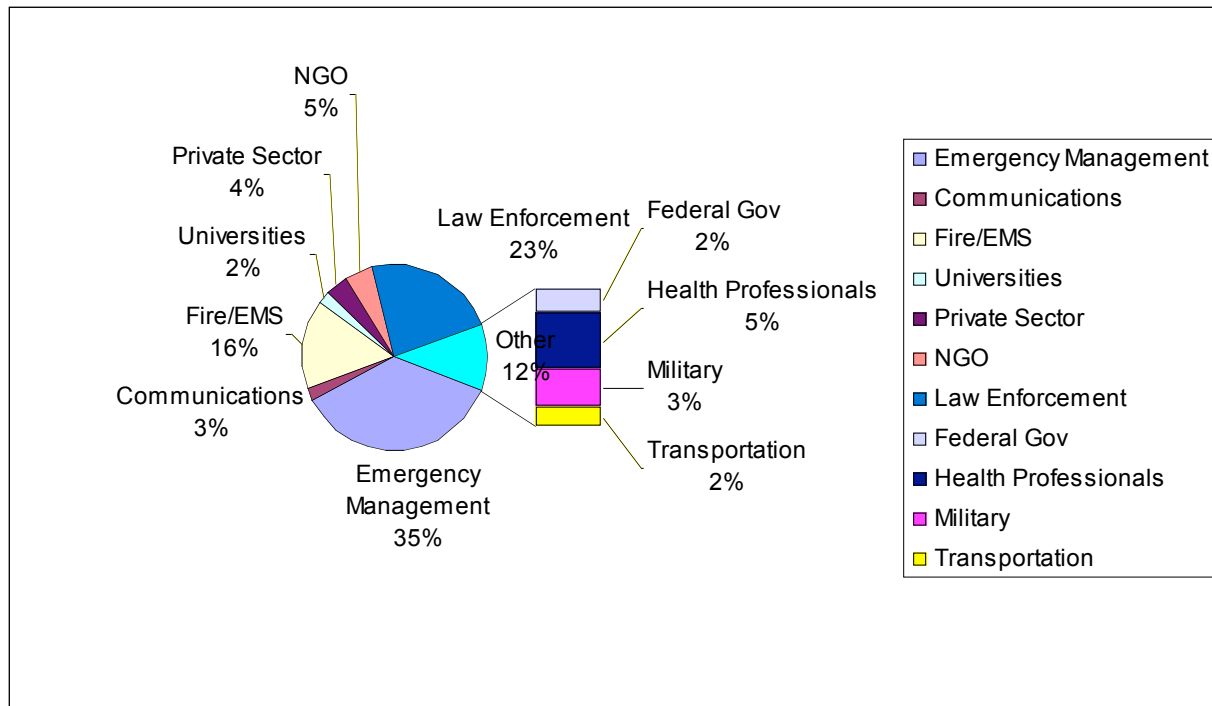
The State Preparedness Report Guidance Appendix E: Items to Address in the Current Capabilities was used as the guide for gathering the data for this report.

The first step in the data collection process was to identify all state level program managers with responsibility for any of the Target Capabilities/National Priorities. Using the questions found in Appendix E, each was interviewed and all relevant reports gathered for incorporation into the State Preparedness Report. However the executive leadership of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Office of Commonwealth Preparedness felt that replying on this information alone was not sufficient. Because much of the program implementation falls to local government and their partners, a series of workshops were held to engage local responders, citizens, businesses and non-governmental organizations. This became the second step in data collections.

In late November and early December 2007 meetings were held in each of the seven homeland security regions. Invitations to participate in these meetings were sent to all locality Emergency

Managers, any grant sub-recipients, members of the Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees and all UASI committee members. The result was that nearly 400 stakeholder participated in the seven regional meetings. The participants represented a wide variety of preparedness professionals as well as private sector, transportation, military, health, universities and representatives from the Federal government.

The chart below shows the distribution of participation by discipline.



The workshop schedule was as follows:

Date	Location	Region
Tuesday, Nov. 27	Alexandria	Region VII
Thursday, Nov. 29	Farmville	Region III
Monday, Dec. 3	Hampton Roads	Region V
Tuesday, Dec. 4	Harrisonburg	Region II
Wednesday, Dec. 5	Abingdon	Region IV
Thursday, Dec. 6	Lynchburg	Region VI
Friday, Dec. 7	Chesterfield	Region I

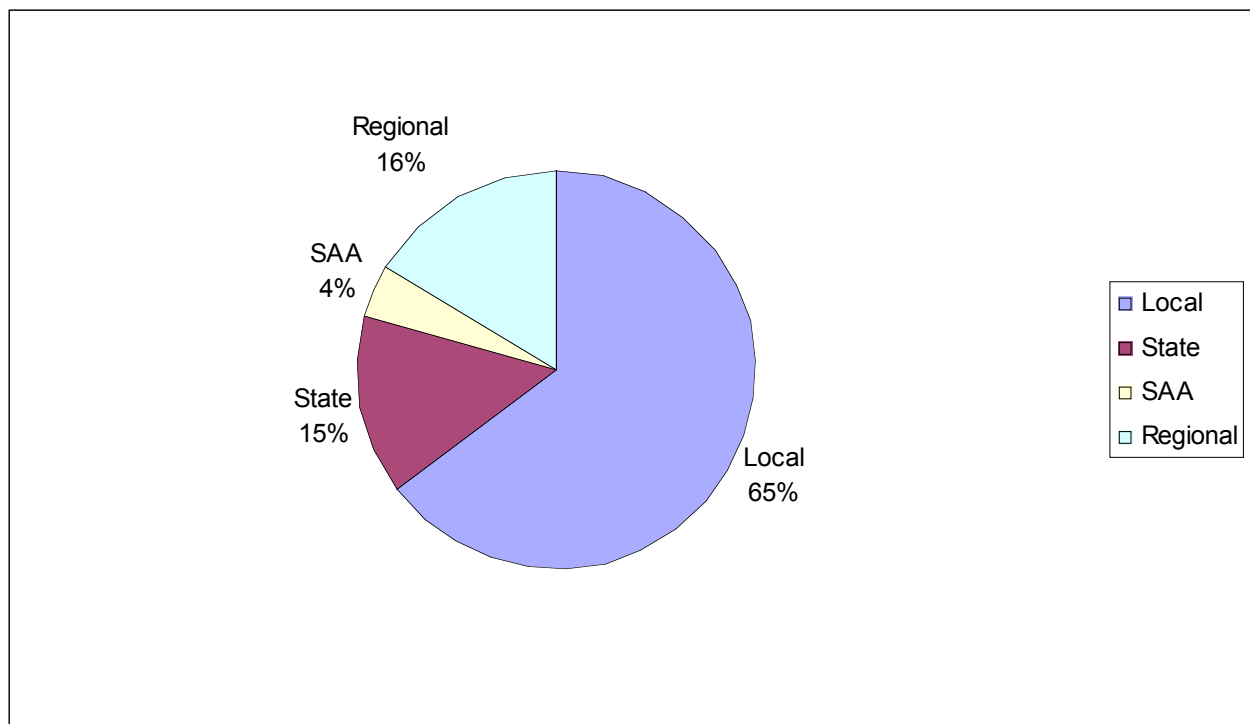
For each session, registrants were given the option of participating in one of six following breakout groups:

- Regional Collaboration
- Communications (Interoperability/Citizen Notifications)
- CBRNE Detection, Response, and Decontamination
- Strengthening Planning (Citizen Preparedness and Continuity of Operations)

- Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, and Mass Care
- Critical Resource Logistics

In the mornings, each breakout session had a discussion, guided by a facilitator, which focused on accomplishments made since 2002, the capabilities that resulted from these accomplishments, objectives for 2010, and initiatives being taken to meet those goals. All discussion points were captured by a note-taker and incorporated into a summary report outlining the key points from the day. In order to share findings and ensure all relevant information was included in this report, each breakout group shared its findings with the entire audience at the end of the afternoon. This stakeholder input was essential for including not just statewide information, but regional and local information and perspectives as well.

The breakout by local, state, regional or State Administrative Agency is in the table below. As intended, the local participants (Fire/EMS, Law enforcement, private sector and non-governmental entities) were the majority of the participants in the development of our State Preparedness Report.



The final step was to engage all regional participants and state level program managers in a review of the first draft of the Virginia State Preparedness Report. Because the Targets and Initiatives described in this report will influence the investments for upcoming federal grant applications, it was important that all interested parties have an opportunity to comment on and understand the priorities.